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October 9, 2008
Carol Lumb
Dept. of Community Development
City of Tukwila
6300 Southcenter Blvd., Suite 100
Tukwila, WA 98188

Dear Carol,

In light of the recent SMP Update conversations, I would like to inform you and the Planning Commission of the Duwamish shoreline project the Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance has been working on. In 2006/2007 Cari Simson, of the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition, and myself hosted a series of meetings, called the Green/Duwamish River Visioning Forums. Some of the Planning Commissioners attended one or more of the meetings, as well as yourself, I believe. At these meetings, one resounding comment was that we need to make it easier for landowners to do positive, habitat-enhancing work on their properties.

To that end, the Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance undertook the 2008 Watershed Conservation Program last summer, in which we engaged high school students in watershed education and restoration work on the shoreline in the Duwamish neighborhood. The students, led by professionals, cleared invasive plant species from the top of the bank of shoreline property in preparation for a fall planting of native plants. It is our intention to continue this program, and broaden it. We are seeking funding to support technical work on the shoreline where students and volunteers cannot work, particularly on the steep banks. We will soon be announcing a community meeting for landowners along the shoreline in that neighborhood during which we would like to share information about our program, and encourage future participation.

With support from staff of WRIA 9, as well as the Forum, and the King Conservation District, it is our goal to engage as many property owners as possible in the neighborhood to create a contiguous section of restored riparian vegetation buffer. This project would act as a model for other shoreline land owners in the watershed and it is our vision that other such projects could continue, whereby land owners would be engaged and aided in adding to the habitat value and integrity of the Green/Duwamish shorelines.

We look forward to future work with the community.

Sincerely yours,
Brooke Alford
Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance, President
Tukwila Parks Commission, Chair

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